

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Hazards program with \$70.552 million, of which \$16.1 million is to be provided to transition the earthquake early warning demonstration project into an operational capability on the West Coast. This is a \$12.6 million increase over the FY2016 requested level in the President's budget.

The USGS, in collaboration with Caltech, UC Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon has developed an Earthquake Early Warning system that detects waves radiating from the epicenter of a quake and would provide people in California, Oregon and Washington with seconds to even a minute or more of warning. With advanced notice, people can take cover, automated systems can be triggered to slow down trains and manage the power grid, doctors can pause surgeries, and more. The technology has been tested and proven to work effectively.

An Earthquake Early Warning system along the West Coast would cost \$16.1 million per year to construct, operate and maintain. FEMA has estimated that earthquakes cost the United States, averaged over the long term, more than \$5 billion a year. This common-sense investment will save lives, protect businesses, and could make a real difference in more rapid recovery for local communities, the federal government and the economy as a whole.

While we cannot predict when and where the next major earthquake will hit, we must do all we can to prepare ourselves so that we can mitigate the injuries, destruction, and chaos as much as possible. We are grateful for your support last year and we appreciate your consideration of our request this year.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



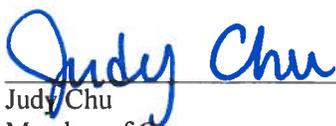
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Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



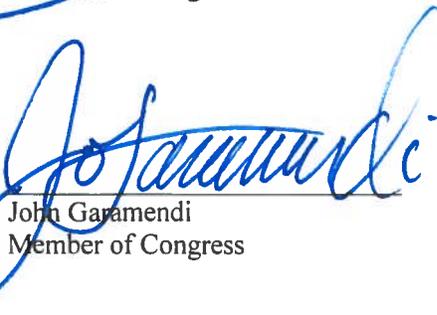
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Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Stiana Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



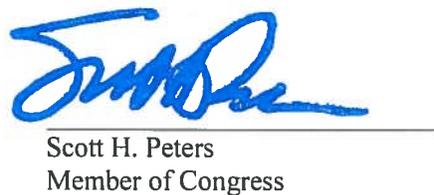
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Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Eleanor H. Norton
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress